



# Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 5 October 2009

Current Nationwide Threat Level

ELEVATED



Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

For information, click here:  
<http://www.dhs.gov>

## Top Stories

- According to the Associated Press, FBI agents are investigating any possible similarities between two recent bomb threats made on American Airlines flights between Miami and Boston, authorities said on October 1. (See item [15](#))
- The Register reports that two ongoing scams are tricking Google and other search engines into prominently displaying millions of compromised Web pages that attempt to hijack end users' computers or steal their credit card numbers, researchers said. (See item [41](#))

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## Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) - <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *October 1, Lafayette Advertiser* – (Louisiana) **Well blowout shuts down school.** Evangeline Elementary School was evacuated after a natural gas well blew out near the school on October 1. Natural gas began spewing from the well around 12:30 p.m., said a Louisiana State Police spokesman. The well is located about 500-600 yards off La. 100, about a quarter of a mile from the school. About 225 students were transported by bus to Egan Elementary School following the blowout. No residences

were evacuated, and no roads were closed. The Acadia Parish Superintendent of Schools said he was awaiting reports from the sheriff's office as to whether the school will re-open on October 2. The police spokesman said cleanup crews were working to contain the blowout around 3 p.m. He said the pressure has subsided to about a tenth of what it was initially.

Source:

<http://www.theadvertiser.com/article/20091001/NEWS01/91001021/Well+blowout+shuts+down+school>

2. *September 30, Bloomberg* – (National) **U.S. EPA delays 79 mountaintop-shearing coal permits.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is withholding 79 permits to mine coal by removing mountaintops in four Appalachian states to assess the environmental impact of dumping the debris in streams. The permits in Kentucky, Tennessee, West Virginia, and Ohio are being held to further evaluate how water quality would be affected from discarding mining debris in adjacent streams and valleys, an EPA spokeswoman, said in an e-mail. Mining applications from companies including International Coal Group Inc. and Massey Energy Co. are affected. Shearing the peaks off mineral-rich mountains to expose coal seams is often easier than digging conventional mines and accounts for about 6 percent of U.S. coal demand. Industry officials say new scrutiny of the practice by EPA amounts to a moratorium on Appalachian coal mining. Each of the 79 permits “is likely to result in significant harm to water quality and the environment,” the EPA spokesperson said. The EPA and Army Corps of Engineers will meet with mining companies to discuss options to reduce the impact on water quality, she said. The permits for the mountaintop removal projects in the four states involve dynamiting or bulldozing peaks. That is considered the least expensive method to extract coal used to power plants yet the most damaging to surroundings, according to the Sierra Club, a San Francisco-based environmental advocate.

Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601087&sid=a9SyfHOzFeDM>

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## **Chemical Industry Sector**

3. *October 1, Dayton Daily News* – (Ohio) **Report: Beavercreek site still hazardous.** The Ohio Department of Health has completed an assessment of a former barrel company by concluding the site continues to pose an “indeterminate public health hazard.” Lammers Barrel operated from 1953-69 at the corner of Patterson and Grange Hall roads, where the company bought, stored, reclaimed and sold flammable chemical solvents, according to the report. In 1969, a major fire exploded barrels as high as 100 feet in the air. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) later designated the property a Superfund site in need of clean up. City officials are not involved in the process, a city engineer said. He hopes the EPA will have a remediation plan by 2010. “The U.S. EPA is running this because it is a Superfund site,” he said. He added a round of public input meetings may be held next year. Investigations found volatile organic compounds, which are known to cause cancer in some cases, had

entered nearby water supplies that fed residential wells. In 1986, the EPA hooked residential wells to the county water supply. The latest report found that additional wells could be impacted if the contamination is not remediated. The report suggests more studies to determine the extent of the contamination and to develop a cleanup plan. The possibility of further contamination through vapor intrusion should also be studied.

Source: <http://www.daytondailynews.com/news/community/beavercreek/report-beavercreek-site-still-hazardous-325994.html>

4. *October 1, WTOL 11 Toledo* – (Ohio) **Hazmat clean-up: Tanker in Lake Township leaked ammonia.** Emergency crews were on scene at Stanley Train Yard in Walbridge on Thursday, October 1. A tanker was leaking a chemical that was unknown at the time of the call. It was determined to be ammonia leaking from a loose valve. Crews considered evacuating nearby homes and businesses but determined it was not necessary. A construction crew was called in to fix the valve.  
Source: <http://www.wtol.com/Global/story.asp?S=11240037>
5. *September 30, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* – (Kansas; Missouri) **Agreement to enable environmental cleanup, redevelopment of former Solutia-J.F. Queeny chemical facility in St. Louis.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 has reached a legal agreement with the owner-developers of a century-old St. Louis chemical manufacturing facility, paving the way for the environmental cleanup and redevelopment of the 38-acre site along the west bank of the Mississippi River. The agreement has been reached under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). SWH Investments II, LLC, of St. Louis has agreed to take a number of steps to clean up the commercial-industrial property and return it to productive use. Additionally, SWH Investments has agreed to make financial assurances totaling \$2.6 million to address the short-term and long-term costs of cleanup and remediation, and to abide by terms of a restrictive covenant with the State of Missouri. From 1901 to 2006, the facility operated as a chemical manufacturing site, using more than 800 raw materials to produce more than 200 products, including aspirin, Saccharin, pesticides, plasticizers and synthetic fluids. Formerly owned by Monsanto, the property was acquired by Solutia, Inc., in 1997. In May 2008, it was purchased by SWH Investments for cleanup and redevelopment. Major contaminants of concern at the site include cancer-causing polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in soils, and well as trichloroethene (TCE) and other volatile organic compounds in groundwater. EPA estimates the short-term cleanup will remove 2,500 tons of PCB-contaminated soils and address 3.2 million gallons of contaminated groundwater.  
Source:  
<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/9B6AEF4BB0CB54D785257642005003A7>
6. *September 30, Spokane Spokesman-Review* – (Washington) **Highway now open after fertilizer spill cleanup.** State Highway 25 three miles north of Northport, south of the the Canadian border in Stevens County, is reopened after a fertilizer spill this morning blocked the road for several hours. A semi-truck carrying fertilizer rolled about 9:43

a.m., the Washington State Patrol reported. The accident did not involve injuries. A cleanup of the non-hazardous fertilizer took several hours to complete, dispatchers said. Emergency units from the State Patrol, Stevens County Sheriff and state Department of Transportation responded to the scene. Details were not yet available on the cause of the accident. The highway runs along the Columbia River.

Source: <http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2009/sep/30/highway-25-blocked-near-northport/>

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## **Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector**

7. *October 2, Toledo Blade* – (Michigan) **DTE Leak shuts down Fermi 2: NRC says no threat to public from escaping hydrogen.** DTE Energy's Fermi 2 nuclear plant near Newport, Michigan remained shut down October 1 for the second day in a row with the utility being unable to identify the source of a hydrogen leak. A utility spokesman said the plant had been operating for an unknown length of time with hydrogen leaking from the plant's main turbine generator into the stator cooling water system. The leak was minor enough that it posed no safety hazard, he said. According to a company notification of the event that was posted on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) web site, the reactor was shut down at 11:09 a.m. Wednesday. The spokesman said that was done to protect the main turbine generator from being damaged. He said it is unknown when the nuclear plant will resume operation because the problem was still being assessed. It was unknown how much, if any, damage might have occurred, he said. "The reactor is in a safe and stable condition," the spokesman said. "The condition does not present a safety risk to workers or the public." An NRC spokesman confirmed the company's explanation and said the agency also had known about the hydrogen leak for an unknown amount of time before the shutdown.

Source: <http://www.tradingmarkets.com/.site/news/Stock News/2559750/>

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## **Critical Manufacturing Sector**

8. *October 2, Southern Oregon Mail Tribune* – (California; Oregon) **Parts missing from Sikorsky copter crash.** Federal investigators have determined that several parts have disappeared from a helicopter that crashed in August 2008, killing seven Southern Oregon firefighters. The 106-page report made public September 30 did not determine how the six parts vanished during the post-crash investigation. They were all related to the fuel-control units for the Sikorsky S-61 that went down on Aug. 5, 2008, during wildfires known as the Iron 44 Complex near Weaverville, California. A pilot and a Forest Service employee also died in the crash. Investigators from the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) said they could not determine whether the parts were lost or taken during the engine teardown phase of the probe. They said the parts' disappearance would not hamper their efforts to determine why the helicopter lost power shortly after takeoff. NTSB released more than 1,000 pages of documents

related to its investigation in mid-September, but did not include any analysis of why the crash occurred. That information may not be released until late this year or early in 2010, according to people familiar with NTSB investigations. In documents filed with NTSB late in 2008, Carson (the Grants Pass company that operated the helicopter) alleged that problems with the fuel-control units may have been connected with the crash. Carson officials told NTSB they feared the loss of parts from those units could compromise efforts to find out why the helicopter went down. Carson also alleged the fuel-control units had been altered while they were with Columbia during the early phases of the investigation. Carson asked NTSB to look into the alleged irregularities. NTSB staff interviewed 11 people, including representatives from Carson, Columbia, the U.S. Forest Service, Sikorsky Aircraft Corp. and GE Aviation, the engine manufacturer. Investigators said they could find no evidence that the fuel-control units had been altered. They said the investigation would not be compromised by the missing parts because early theories that the fuel-control units were at fault were discounted as the probe continued.

Source:

<http://www.mailtribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20091002/NEWS/910020323>

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

9. *October 1, Defense News* – (International) **Airbus engine tests completed.** The first flight of the Airbus A400M airlifter has edged closer following an announcement from Marshall Aerospace that it had completed the final phase of testing on the TP400 engine due to power the much-delayed transport aircraft. The U.K.-based company said the flight trials of a single Europrop International-developed engine mounted on its modified C-130K test bed aircraft were completed Sept 30 after achieving 110 hours of engine running time. The test included 54 hours of flight trials. Completion of the risk-reduction phase means the A400M is on track to meet the promises of Airbus executives that the airlifter would make its first flight around the end of the year. The fourth engine was recently fitted to the first A400M development aircraft at the Airbus military factory in Seville, Spain. The future of the program had been in doubt earlier this year as a result of delivery and cost overruns. Airbus is in talks with partner nations Belgium, Britain, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Spain, and Turkey over a new program schedule for the A400M, including guarantees on performance, delivery and price. The talks are being held under the umbrella of an agreement that has seen a temporary suspension of a contract clause allowing customers to cancel the program.

Source: <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?i=4304754&c=EUR&s=AIR>

10. *October 1, Knoxville News Sentinel* – (Tennessee) **Criticality safety issues surface again at Y-12.** In an August 28 weekly report from the Oak Ridge Y-12 nuclear weapons plant, the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) staff said recent events “indicate a lack of rigor in adhering to and enforcing criticality safety and procedural requirements.” According to the report, a Y-12 criticality safety officer had discovered “multiple violations” of criticality safety requirement the previous week

involving the storage of sample materials (presumably of highly enriched uranium). Those violations included various instances of improper storage of materials, including sample bottles that were stacked above the height of the front shelf — violating a posted requirement — as well as some dry materials that were stored in larger bottles than allowed by rules at Building 9212, the plant’s main uranium processing facility. This was not the first time that problems have been found. It was not even the first time that problems were found recently. According to the staff report, “This is the third occasion during the past few months in which criticality safety personnel discovered storage configurations that violated criticality safety postings.” The staff also found that the contractor’s (B&W Y-12) production workers had violated a “procedural criticality safety requirement” in Building 9212 while packaging three bag filters that had been damaged and replaced. Apparently this operation is not performed on a regular basis, and the response seemed to indicate that workers were unfamiliar with the safety requirements involving the filters in the enriched uranium processing facility. The report appeared to be critical of the response by B&W, saying that during the critique of the violation the Y-12 contractor focused primarily on the miscommunication between the operators who cut the filters into halves and other operators and did not discuss the actual problems in carrying out the procedures. Also, a senior manager was not present during the critique, as is called for by B&W’s own protocol for such events, the report said.

Source: [http://blogs.knoxnews.com/munger/2009/10/criticality\\_safety\\_issues\\_surf.html](http://blogs.knoxnews.com/munger/2009/10/criticality_safety_issues_surf.html)

For another story, see item [8](#)

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

11. *October 2, Gaithersburg Gazette* – (National) **Community bankers wary of FDIC proposal.** A proposal by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. (FDIC) requiring banks to prepay their annual assessments due through 2012 is better than another special assessment, but still needs some fine-tuning, Maryland bankers said Thursday. The fund, which insures bank deposits when institutions fail, was expected to reach a negative balance this week under the weight of increasing bank failures, FDIC officials said. So far this year, 95 banks have failed, compared with 26 all of last year, three in 2007 and none in 2006 and 2005. The FDIC is doing a great job dealing with the challenges of the recession, but the prepayment proposal needs to make sure that smaller community banks are not shouldering a disproportionate share of the assessments, said the president and CEO of Easton Bank and Trust Co. in Easton, Maryland. He is also chairman of the Independent Community Bankers of America, an organization in Washington, D.C., representing community banks. The FDIC should consider a discount for banks that prepay and should base the assessment on assets minus core capital, not domestic deposits, he said. Using the latter method would exempt many of the assets owned by larger banks that are considered to be “too big to fail” by the government, he said.

Source: [http://www.gazette.net/stories/10022009/businew174459\\_32523.shtml](http://www.gazette.net/stories/10022009/businew174459_32523.shtml)



12. *October 2, Associated Press* – (National) **TD Bank says it will refund fees from glitch.** TD Bank says it will reimburse customers who incur fees because of computer problems that have delayed transaction postings all week. The bank, based in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, and Portland, Maine, says the problem came about as it tries to integrate the computer systems of the old TD Banknorth and Commerce Bank. The problem means direct deposits are not showing up immediately — and that could cause some people to be short of funds. On the bank’s Web site, it says it will not charge customers any fees because of the problem and that it will reimburse them for fees charged by other banks.  
Source: <http://www.bankerandtradesman.com/news134996.html>
13. *October 1, WGN 9 Chicago* – (Illinois) **Former bank security head admits kickback scheme.** A man who once oversaw security for LaSalle Bank pleaded guilty to one count each of bribing a bank official, bank fraud and tax fraud, according to prosecutors. The man, who did not reach a plea deal with prosecutors, faces up to 63 years in prison when he is sentenced January 13. He was charged in 2007 with soliciting \$400,000 in kickbacks to steer bank security business to the owner of Integrity Security Solutions of Wood Dale.  
Source: <http://www.chicagobreakingnews.com/2009/10/former-bank-security-head-admits-kickback-scheme.html>
14. *September 30, Bloomberg* – (California) **Golden State Mutual seized by California regulator.** Golden State Mutual Life Insurance Co., the Los Angeles-based company that failed to make a profit for five straight years, was seized by California regulators after the insurer sold assets to cover losses. Golden State, which operates in 12 states, was served an “order of conservation” and must stop selling new policies immediately, the state insurance commissioner said today in a statement. The regulator will oversee payment of claims and receipt of premiums as it winds the company down. Life insurers have reported losses and profit declines in the past year as investments they hold to back policies fell in value. A.M. Best Co., which rates the ability of insurers to pay claims, said in May the investment losses will cause an increasing number of companies to be seized by state regulators this year and next. Golden State ranked 103rd in life insurance sales in California in 2007, according to data from the National Association of Insurance Commissioners.  
Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601103&sid=aPnr8jhvpPr4>

For another story, see item [19](#)

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## **Transportation Sector**

15. *October 1, Associated Press* – (National) **FBI probes bomb threats on American flights.** Federal Bureau Investigation (FBI) agents are investigating any possible similarities between two recent bomb threats made on American Airlines flights between Miami and Boston, authorities said Thursday. An FBI spokeswoman said

Thursday that agents are looking for common threads between the two cases. In the most recent incident Wednesday in Boston, a flight attendant found the words “bomb on board, Boston-Miami” scrawled on a bathroom cabinet. The aircraft was evacuated and luggage searched, though no bomb was found. On September 17, a flight attendant found a threatening note in a bathroom. The note used the word “bomb” and said explosives might be on board, the FBI said. The flight had taken off from Miami International Airport around 9:30 p.m. and had to return about 40 minutes later. The plane was searched and bags were re-screened after 168 passengers and six crew members safely disembarked. Nothing turned up in the search, according to the Transportation Security Administration. The passengers stayed overnight in Miami and left the next morning for Boston. American Airlines did not immediately return a call seeking comment.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/33130494/ns/travel-news/>

16. *October 1, Associated Press* – (California) **Man charged with making false bomb threat at SFO.** An Oregon man was being held in lieu of \$50,000 bail after being charged with making a false bomb threat at San Francisco International Airport. San Mateo County authorities say the man was arrested at San Francisco International on the night of October 1 after he became irate and said the wrong thing to a ticket agent. A Sheriff’s Department spokesman says the man held up his cell phone and told the agent that he would “blow up the (expletive) plane.” The airline representative called police, who arrested the man. The 46-year-old pleaded not guilty Wednesday to a misdemeanor charge of making a false bomb threat.  
Source: [http://www.cbs47.tv/news/state/story/Man-charged-with-making-false-bomb-threat-at-SFO/rySAI4sJTk2isfvoKSD\\_yQ.csp?rss=154](http://www.cbs47.tv/news/state/story/Man-charged-with-making-false-bomb-threat-at-SFO/rySAI4sJTk2isfvoKSD_yQ.csp?rss=154)
17. *October 1, Seward Phoenix Log* – (Alaska) **Seward Ship’s cited with OSHA violations.** Seward Ship’s Drydock Inc. was cited with \$87,000 in proposed fines by the U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) on Tuesday. The charges alleged willful, serious and repeat violations of safety and health standards. Seward Ship’s, a repair facility off Nash Road, currently employs about 40 workers. According to the OSHA deputy regional administrator, an inspection was prompted in April after an employee complained about confined-space working conditions on the Paula Lee barge. Advanced notice is not given before inspections. “We show up, explain why we are there and proceed on walking through the work site, looking at working conditions and talking to employees,” the administrator said. The investigation allegedly found a willful violation involving lack of gas testing of confined work spaces. “We don’t normally find willful violations. It’s a very small percentage,” he said. “It’s differentiated from ordinary violations by the fact the employers intentionally disregarded the safety of their employees.” The company was also cited with nine other alleged serious violations including tripping, respiratory protection, electrical and drowning hazards. Repeat violations for continuing use of damaged welding leads and cables, damaged ladders and fall hazards were also cited. Seward Ship’s production manager said that many of the citations were the result of a “disgruntled employee who no longer works for us.” The OSHA inspection, he said, took place during atypical transitory work situations while crews



set up on one area of barge and took down another. “Some of these citations are completely out of context and unwarranted,” he said.

Source: <http://www.thesewardphoenixlog.com/news/show/7507>

18. *September 30, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* – (Iowa) **Waste management permit issued for facility containing closed hazardous waste landfill cells in Keokuk, Iowa.** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 has issued a post-closure hazardous waste management permit to Cyprus Specialty Metals Company, Roquette America Railway, Inc., and the City of Keokuk, Iowa for a local industrial facility property containing two closed hazardous waste landfill cells. EPA has issued a post-closure hazardous waste management permit to the property owners under provisions of the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). The permit requires the parties to monitor the integrity of the two closed hazardous waste landfill cells by inspecting and maintaining the landfill covers. The permit also requires the permittees to conduct annual ground water sampling and analysis around the landfill cells. If unacceptable levels of contamination are detected around the landfill cells, the permittees must correct the release. The permittees must also investigate and respond to releases of hazardous waste from other areas at the facility, besides the two landfill cells, that have been identified as having the potential for such releases. The post-closure hazardous waste management permit is in effect for a period of 10 years from issuance.

Source:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/3C97EAC8506CD6D48525764200531DA9>

For more stories, see items [4](#) and [6](#)

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

19. *October 2, Elgin Courier-News* – (Illinois) **Suspicious powder in envelope briefly closes Elgin Chase facility.** A suspicious substance was found inside an envelope at the Chase Bank credit card processing center on Westfield Drive in Elgin, Illinois Thursday morning, prompting officials to close the center for a short time. No one was injured and it eventually was determined that the substance found shortly before 8 a.m. was not a health threat, said a battalion chief with the Elgin Fire Department. The center was closed down for about an hour while police and fire officials investigated, he said. Thursday’s incident comes almost a year after envelopes containing suspicious powder and threats were sent to the Elgin center and other Chase facilities throughout the country. A New Mexico man eventually was arrested on charges of sending the threatening letters. After analyzing the plain white envelope with certified stamping at the Chase center Thursday, officials determined that the substance inside presented no credible threat to employees or the facility. The fire official said the analysis included checking for threatening notes, special symbols, and other indicators that would suggest the substance inside might be dangerous. The envelope was addressed to Chase Card

Services and was discovered by employees in the mailroom there, according to the Elgin police deputy.

Source: [http://www.suburbanchicagonews.com/couriernews/news/1801436,Suspicious-powder-chase-elgin\\_EL100109.article](http://www.suburbanchicagonews.com/couriernews/news/1801436,Suspicious-powder-chase-elgin_EL100109.article)

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## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

20. *October 1, Kansas City Star* – (Kansas) **Pesticide in salsa, not tainted drinks, reportedly blamed for Lenexa restaurant illness.** A powerful and dangerous pesticide in salsa, not carbonated drinks tainted by faulty plumbing, is believed to have caused the mass sudden illnesses at a Johnson County Mexican restaurant. Customers of Mi Ranchito in Lenexa told KSHB, The Kansas City Star's reporting partner, that health officials told them the salsa was tainted with methomyl, a pesticide that can quickly make people sick. About 20 people suddenly fell ill in late August while dining at the restaurant. More than a dozen people were taken to the hospital. One of the founders of the Mi Ranchito restaurants, said Thursday that state health officials had not told him that poisoning caused the sickness. Health officials declined to comment. "We don't store poisons in our restaurants," the co-founder said. "If this did happen, it was a deliberate act by somebody who wants to hurt my business." Employees at the restaurants make about 20 gallons of salsa every morning and more some afternoons, he said. The salsa goes into a cooler and is taken out as needed and put in pans in a refrigerator, he said. He declined to comment on whether police had talked to him or his employees. Lenexa police also declined to comment. State officials cleared the restaurant to open last week after it passed a safety inspection and its employees passed a safety test.

Source: <http://www.kansascity.com/115/story/1483911.html>

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## **Water Sector**

21. *October 2, WPBF 25 West Palm Beach* – (Florida) **City slapped with 117 pollution violations.** The Florida Department of Environmental Protection has slapped the city of West Palm Beach's advanced wastewater treatment plant with 117 pollution violations. "During that period of time it was the initial start up of the facility and it was a very complicated and unique permit," said the assistant city administrator. He said some of the citations were because of reporting areas and others were because the wastewater did exceed some pollution standards. "We did have true violations of nitrogen and phosphorus that dealt with the fact that we were struggling to get the facility operating efficiently," he said. He stressed that the output of the advanced wastewater treatment plant is by no means drinking water. It is cleaned and piped into nearby wetlands, which filter the water further. Over time, that highly treated wastewater is circulated to the city's well fields. Only once this year, and sporadically in 2008 did the city pump that well field water into surface canals and lakes to supplement the drinking water

supply. But the 2007 drought had the city using as many as 4 million gallons on some days from the well fields. It is the same period of time many of these pollution violations occurred. A spokesperson for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection said the city was fined \$144,789.

Source: <http://www.wpbfl.com/news/21174125/detail.html>

22. *October 1, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* – (Guam) **Guam wastewater plants required to upgrade to secondary treatment.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued final decisions to deny the Guam Waterworks Authority's permit variances exempting the Agana and Northern District wastewater treatment plants from secondary treatment requirements. The EPA has concluded discharges from the two plants do not meet the Clean Water Act's requirements as both plants discharge treated wastewater exceeding Territorial water quality standards for bacteria, designed to protect recreational activities such as swimming and fishing. Additionally, neither plant has met the minimum standards for primary treatment, which require 30 percent removal of total suspended solids and biochemical oxygen demand. "We have determined that both wastewater plants fail to achieve the Clean Water Act requirements for a variance from secondary treatment," said the EPA's Acting Administrator for the Pacific Southwest region. GWA's Agana and Northern District plants have been operating under variances from secondary treatment. With the final decision to deny the renewal of the variances, both plants will be required to upgrade to full secondary treatment. EPA will work with GWA to develop a schedule for implementing projects consistent with GWA's priorities. GWA has invested in improvements to its wastewater collection system, significantly reducing sewage spills.

Source:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/80F7B0EE0CBD86A585257642005D5A57>

23. *October 1, WGCL 19 Atlanta* – (Georgia) **Two water main breaks in Atlanta shut off water.** A 12 inch water main break opened a huge sink hole at the intersection of Defoor Hills Road and Hills Avenue, Wednesday night in Atlanta, Georgia. A spokesperson with the city's Watershed Management Department said the break could be the result of soggy ground caused by last week's flooding, but said that has not been confirmed. Crews worked throughout the night pumping water out of that break and another one, an 8-inch break, that left 250 homes without water. That one happened on Northland Road between Baroque Circle and Windsor Parkway. The city restored the water to those home and businesses effected Thursday morning.

Source: <http://www.cbsatlanta.com/news/21166925/detail.html>

For another story, see item [2](#)

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## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

24. *October 1, USA Today* – (National) **Swine flu vaccine arrives, and the scramble begins.** Vaccine for the H1N1 flu will begin arriving in the nation's hospitals, clinics and schools as early as Tuesday, the start of an effort to protect Americans against a swine flu virus that emerged this past spring and quickly circled the globe. The director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says the effort ushers in a "challenging few weeks" for health officials. On top of the logistics, health officials have to convince a somewhat skeptical public that swine flu vaccinations are necessary. And they have to do it in the midst of vaccinating the public for seasonal flu, which by itself claims 36,000 lives across the USA each year. Vaccine makers have taken about five months to get the H1N1 vaccine ready. Typically, seasonal flu vaccine takes at least a month longer but protects against three flu strains; the H1N1 protects against only one. Officials are expecting 200 million doses by the end of the year and 50 million more by the end of April. The vaccine is coming out in 6 million- to 20 million-dose segments, so not everyone will be able to get it immediately. For each wave of vaccine that arrives, decisions about where it goes and who gets it will have to be made. The decisions will be made by state and local health officials. Most states are planning extensive information campaigns in several languages to get the word out when vaccine is available. Even hospitals will have to dole out the vaccine carefully, because they initially will not get enough for their entire staffs.  
Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2009-10-01-swine-flu-vaccine\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2009-10-01-swine-flu-vaccine_N.htm)
25. *October 1, KOMO 4 Seattle* – (Washington) **Nurses file lawsuit over mandatory flu vaccine.** A union representing 16,000 registered nurses in Washington state has filed a federal lawsuit against MultiCare Health System for implementing a mandatory flu vaccination policy. "This new policy will force nurses to get the flu vaccination or to wear face masks as a condition of employment and may result in the firing of nurses who do not comply with the policy," the union said in a statement. The lawsuit, filed by the Washington State Nurses Association, seeks an injunction to stop the policy from being implemented at both Tacoma General and Good Samaritan hospitals. The nurses' union said in a statement that it supports a voluntary vaccination program, but that any mandatory policy should be overseen by the state or federal government. "Any mandatory vaccination policy should be implemented on a federal or state level, not through a patchwork of hospital-by-hospital policies," said the executive director of the nurses' association.  
Source: <http://www.komonews.com/news/local/63144732.html>
26. *October 1, U.S Food and Drug Administration* – (National) **New USP standards for heparin products will result in decreased potency.** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) today alerted health care professionals to a change in heparin manufacturing that is expected to decrease the potency of the common anti-clotting drug. To ensure the quality of heparin and to guard against potential contamination, the United States Pharmacopeia (USP), a nonprofit standards-setting organization, adopted new manufacturing controls for heparin. These changes include a modification of the reference standard for the drug's unit dose. Manufacturers in the United States label the amount of heparin included in their products based on USP standards. The changes adopted by the USP for the heparin unit dose match the World Health Organization's

International Standard (IS) unit dose definition that has been in use in Europe for many years. The revised USP reference standard and unit definition for heparin is about 10 percent less potent than the former USP unit. Four companies market heparin in the United States. APP, the largest manufacturer, markets heparin in vials; Hospira markets heparin in intravenous bags, vials, and syringes; Baxter markets heparin in intravenous bags, and B. Braun markets heparin in intravenous bags. The FDA has asked that all manufacturers identify their new products to help pharmacies and health care professionals differentiate it from the former product.

Source:

<http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm184674.htm>

27. *October 1, WTRF 7 Steubenville* – (Ohio) **Man walks into medical building with gun.** A man walked into a doctors office in Steubenville, Ohio, armed with a .380 caliber handgun Wednesday morning. Police later entered through a back door and ordered the man to the ground where he surrendered. He was arraigned in court and charged with inducing panic. He remains behind bars in the Jefferson County Jail.

Source: <http://www.wtrf.com/story.cfm?func=viewstory&storyid=67697>

For another story, see item [30](#)

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## **Government Facilities Sector**

28. *October 2, Washington Examiner* – (District of Columbia; Maryland) **Feds: Federal building guards didn't get required training.** A private contractor has been accused of falsely certifying security company guards in lifesaving techniques before they were then sent to protect Department of Homeland Security and Department of Veterans Affairs buildings in Washington. The defendant was an authorized provider of cardiopulmonary resuscitation training for the American Red Cross. According to an indictment filed in the District's federal court, the defendant claimed to have trained at least 10 Blackhawk Inc. security guards in the life-saving procedures they were contractually required to know. In reality, the indictment says, the defendant was submitting false training information to the Red Cross, causing the nonprofit to issue unearned credentials. The Maryland-based company's contract was overseen by the Federal Protective Service, which required Blackhawk to provide biographical information on each guard and the completion dates of required training, including CPR. Blackhawk, according to the indictment, hired the defendant to train its employees in CPR through the company the defendant owned and operated, DB Training Services. The guards who were not properly trained went on to work at federal buildings between April 2007 and February 2008, the indictment said. The defendant has been charged with making false statements and wire fraud for allegedly causing the government to send payments to Blackhawk even when he knew the company's federal contract had been breached because of the lack of training. Calls to Blackhawk were not immediately returned Thursday.

Source: [http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/local/crime/Feds\\_Federal-building-guards-didn\\_t-get-required-training-8328498-63175387.html](http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/local/crime/Feds_Federal-building-guards-didn_t-get-required-training-8328498-63175387.html)

29. *October 2, WKRC 12 Cincinnati* – (Kentucky) **Threats prompt evacuation at Gallatin Co. high school.** The Gallatin County Sheriff's Office investigates several threats made Thursday afternoon at Gallatin County High School. Three threatening calls were received around 2:30 pm. Officials are not disclosing the exact nature of the threats. Students at the school were evacuated as a precaution. Kentucky State Police and a canine from the Cincinnati Northern Kentucky International Airport assisted the Sheriff's Office. Local 12 News left several messages with school officials regarding the outcome of the investigation but so far, none of 12 News' calls have been returned. Source: <http://www.local12.com/news/local/story/Threats-Prompt-Evacuation-At-Gallatin-Co-High/EvV5cLcHOEKslgABmZ8IoQ.csp?rss=30>
30. *October 2, Washington Post* – (District of Columbia) **D.C. schools plan swine flu vaccines in Oct.** Students at some District of Columbia public schools will be able to get vaccinated against swine flu this month, and immunizations for students are expected to be available citywide in November, according to a plan health officials made public this week. The six-week plan begins with the assumption that the vaccine for the H1N1 virus, better known as swine flu, will be available Monday. If the vaccine arrives on time, it will first be distributed to health workers across the city. For a two-week period beginning October 19, it will be given to D.C. public schools that have staff nurses, for in-school vaccinations. During the final period, starting November 1, the vaccine would be available to the remaining students in the D.C. school system as well as those from private schools in the District. During the final period, high schools across the city — Coolidge, Wilson, Cardozo, Dunbar, Eastern, Ballou, and H.D. Woodson — will serve as mass vaccination clinics for all students. Vaccinations will also be offered at some D.C. community and recreation centers. Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/10/01/AR2009100104655.html?hpid=moreheadliness>
31. *October 1, Associated Press* – (Kentucky) **Student charged in school bomb threat.** Police have charged a student at a McCracken County, Kentucky school with terroristic threatening in a bomb threat. The words "Bomb in L.O." were written on a bathroom wall at Lone Oak High School on September 17. A sheriff's office detective said the suspect told a school resource officer he saw the graffiti and the school was evacuated for three hours. The Paducah Sun reported that on Wednesday, after a follow-up interview with the 19-year-old suspect, the sheriff's department charged him. The detective said some students view threat hoaxes as a prank or as a way of getting out of classes, but he said the department will prosecute such cases. Source: <http://www.wave3.com/global/story.asp?s=11239364>
32. *October 1, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* – (National) **EPA Region 4 now monitoring for air toxics at 12 schools in the Southeast.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 4 announced today that it is now sampling the air outside 12 schools in the Southeast that were selected as part of EPA's Schools Air Toxics



Monitoring Initiative. The initiative, which is monitoring the air outside 63 schools in 22 states, is designed to help EPA and the state and local air pollution programs evaluate whether long-term exposure to toxics in the outdoor air might pose health concerns for children and staff at the schools. Outdoor air at each of the schools is being monitored for at least 60 days, and air quality monitors will take a minimum of 10 samples during these sampling periods. EPA will use the information gathered in the initiative to help determine next steps, which could include additional monitoring or enforcement action where appropriate. Monitoring concluded in June at two schools in Tennessee and those reports have been posted to the EPA website. Preliminary air toxics monitoring data from four additional schools were posted on the EPA's Web site today. The schools are Lewis Elementary, North Birmingham Elementary, Tarrant Elementary, and the Riggins School, all in Jefferson County, Alabama.

Source:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/911C0EC924954708852576420065E01E>

33. *October 1, Roanoke Times* – (Virginia) **Patrick Henry High School student charged with possessing explosive.** A Patrick Henry High School student faces a criminal charge after a search Wednesday revealed a suspicious object, a Roanoke, Virginia police spokeswoman said. School staff members found an object containing firecrackers and metal objects inside an Axe body spray can after searching the student, a 16-year-old boy, the spokeswoman said. School resource officers were notified at 3:20 p.m., prompting them to close a portion of the school and request that Virginia State Police remove the object. The student is being charged with possession of an explosive or fire-bomb device, and the incident is still under investigation.

Source: <http://www.roanoke.com/news/breaking/wb/220969>

34. *September 30, U.S. Government Accountability Office* – (Washington) **Uncertainties and questions about costs and risks persist with DOE's Tank Waste Cleanup Strategy at Hanford.** At its Hanford Site in Washington State, the Department of Energy (DOE) is responsible for one of the world's biggest cleanup projects: the treatment and disposal of about 56 million gallons of radioactive and hazardous waste, stored in 177 underground tanks. Two decades and several halted efforts later, none of this waste has yet been treated, cleanup costs have grown steadily, and prospective cleanup time frames have lengthened. The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) was asked to assess (1) DOE's current tank waste cleanup strategy and key technical, legal, and other uncertainties; (2) the extent to which DOE has analyzed whether this strategy is commensurate with risks from the wastes; and (3) opportunities to reduce tank waste cleanup costs. GAO reviewed pertinent documents, visited the site, and interviewed officials and independent experts. DOE's tank waste cleanup strategy consists of five key phases — waste characterization, retrieval, pretreatment, treatment, and permanent disposal — but critical uncertainties call into question whether the strategy can succeed as planned. Technical uncertainties include whether DOE can retrieve waste from tanks at the rate needed to support continuous operation of the waste treatment complex now under construction and whether key treatment technologies will work. Legal uncertainties include whether DOE can treat and dispose of some tank waste as other than high-level (highly radioactive) waste and how much

residual waste can be left in the tanks when they are eventually closed. Such uncertainties could lead to significant cost increases and further delays in completing Hanford's tank waste cleanup activities. DOE has not systematically evaluated whether its tank waste cleanup strategy is commensurate with risks posed by the wastes. DOE lacks credible or complete estimates of how much the strategy will cost or how long it will take. The total project cost of constructing the waste treatment plant alone grew from \$4.3 billion in 2000 to \$12.3 billion in 2006.

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-09-913>

For another story, see item [1](#)

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

35. *October 2, Homeland Security Today* – (National) **Post-disaster housing: still a major challenge.** The Government Accounting Office (GAO) released a report titled “DISASTER HOUSING : FEMA Needs More Detailed Guidance and Performance Measures to Help Ensure Effective Assistance after Major Disasters”, which found that households living in FEMA group sites after major disasters face numerous continuing challenges in attempting to transition to permanent housing. The study was based on studies of survivors of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Its findings, however, are considered relevant to a wider gamut of post-disaster recovery situations. Key factors that typically contribute to higher rents, according to the report, are a decreased supply of affordable rental units after disasters and an increased demand for undamaged rental units. Also affecting the limited supply of rental housing , according to the report, were the following two factors: the slow pace of rental housing construction under key federal programs and the decision by states to focus the majority of federal funds on repairing homeowner units, rather than rental units.

Source: <http://www.hstoday.us/content/view/10469/149/>

36. *October 1, Nextgov* – (National) **Hill demands FEMA quickly upgrade aging public warning system.** House lawmakers demanded on Wednesday that the Federal Emergency Management Agency move quickly to upgrade the nation's Cold War-era public warning system so presidential alerts will reach Americans through modern communications, including cell phones. The chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management, asked the director of physical infrastructure at the Government Accountability Office, who would and who would not receive a message, if the president needed to send one out? “There's no assurance that the message would get very far,” the director replied. “There's been limited testing of the system.” A lack of concrete goals and deadlines have delayed installation of a comprehensive system, called the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS), that will interface with Web-based and cellular devices, according to lawmakers and GAO. The existing relay, called the Emergency Alert System, relies on radio and television broadcasts.

Source: [http://www.nextgov.com/nextgov/ng\\_20091001\\_6373.php?oref=topnews](http://www.nextgov.com/nextgov/ng_20091001_6373.php?oref=topnews)

## **Information Technology Sector**

37. *October 2, The Register* – (International) **Google Chrome update fills in parsing bug.** Google has published a update to its Chrome browser that addresses a newly discovered high risk security hole. Chrome version 3.0.195.24 sorts an error in processing long floating point numbers that creates a means for hackers to execute malware within the Google Chrome sandbox. The flaw in the dtoa() component of Chrome's engine is of a type that might lend itself to drive-by download attacks, as explained in a Google advisory. Although any malware would only run inside Chrome's sandbox, Google still defines the flaw as "high risk." Security notification firm Secunia goes further and describes the flaw, discovered by a researcher at SecurityReason, as "highly critical."  
Source: [http://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/10/02/google\\_chrome\\_security\\_update/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/10/02/google_chrome_security_update/)
38. *October 1, Network World* – (International) **Security researchers ask: Does self-destructing data really vanish.** Researchers the week of September 28 published a paper describing how they broke Vanish, a secure communications system prototype out of the University of Washington that generated lots of buzz when introduced over the summer for its ability to make data self-destruct. Researchers at Princeton University, the University of Texas, and the University of Michigan wondered how well the system could really stand up to attack and figured out how to beat Vanish. Their paper is titled "Defeating Vanish with Low-Cost Sybil Attacks Against Large DHTs." Vanish exploits the churn on peer-to-peer networks by creating a key whenever a Vanish user puts the system to use and then divvying up that key and spreading across the P2P net. Such networks, the same kinds used to share music and other files, change over time as computers jump on or off. As such, portions of the key disappear forever and the original message can not be unencrypted. One researcher wrote that after reading about Vanish during the summer: "I realized that some of our past thinking about how to extract information from large distributed data structures might be applied to attack Vanish. [A fellow researcher] grabbed the project and started doing experiments to see how much information could be extracted from the Vuze DHT [Vuze is the P2P network used by Vanish and DHT is a distributed hash table]. If we could monitor Vuze and continuously record almost all of its contents, then we could build a Wayback Machine for Vuze that would let us decrypt [vanishing data objects] that were supposedly expired, thereby defeating Vanish's security guarantees." The University of Washington researchers note that Vanish does not have to be wedded to Vuze and in fact might be better based on a hybrid system that uses multiple distributed storage systems. They write: "However, we recommend that at this time, the Vanish prototype only be used for experimental purposes. We do encourage researchers, however, to analyze it and improve upon it. We strongly believe that realizing Vanish's vision would represent a significant step toward achieving privacy in today's forgetful age."  
Source: <http://www.networkworld.com/news/2009/100109-vanish-researchers-crack.html>

39. *October 1, PC World* – (International) **Blackberry update fixes phishing flaw.** Research In Motion on September 30 announced a new BlackBerry patch that fixes a display flaw that could help phishers conduct an attack. The flaw involves the dialog box that displays when a BlackBerry user visits a supposedly secured site that uses a mismatched security certificate. If a scammer creates a certificate that uses hidden (null) characters, the BlackBerry browser will correctly recognize a mismatch between such a certificate and a Web site's name and display a warning dialog. However, the old dialog does not display hidden characters, which could make the certificate and site name look the same in the warning and lead users to ignore it. The new version will correctly display hidden characters in the dialog box. According to a RIM security advisory post, all versions of the BlackBerry Device Software need the patch, which is available from <http://www.blackberry.com/updates/>.  
Source:  
[http://www.pcworld.com/article/172968/blackberry\\_update\\_fixes\\_phishing\\_flaw.html](http://www.pcworld.com/article/172968/blackberry_update_fixes_phishing_flaw.html)

For another story, see item [41](#)

### Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [sos@us-cert.gov](mailto:sos@us-cert.gov) or visit their Website: <http://www.us-cert.gov>.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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## Communications Sector

40. *October 1, Broadband DSL Reports* – (National) **CallCentric suffers national VoIP outage.** Users in DSL Reports' VoIP forum indicate that VoIP provider Callcentric had a national outage since around 11 a.m. Thursday, something users say is fairly uncommon for the operator. The company's Web site was also up and down for much of the day. "All our engineers and developers were notified about 30 seconds after it started by both internal and external monitoring systems," says the company. "We sincerely apologize for this outage and once we have restored service we will be investigating the cause further."  
Source: <http://www.dslreports.com/shownews/CallCentric-Suffers-National-VoIP-Outage-104772>
41. *October 1, The Register* – (International) **Google results flog millions of compromised Web pages.** Two ongoing scams are tricking Google and other search engines into prominently displaying millions of compromised Web pages that attempt to hijack end users' computers or steal their credit card numbers, researchers said. One of the attacks is being used to direct people searching the Web to an online store hawking pirated copies of popular software titles. Plugging the phrase "cheap vista for students" into Google, for instance, returned more than 19 million results, many of

which redirected users to a site called soft4pcs.com. A separate attack is the work of a botnet dubbed ASProx, which injects malicious links into misconfigured ASP Web pages. Users who enter a wide array of search queries, such as “used corvette parts”, received results pointing to a page that redirected to ads-t.ru, which attempted to serve a hostile Adobe Flash file that installs malware. The director of research in computer forensics at the University of Alabama at Birmingham said that Google was returning more than 3.2 million results that contained the malicious script and Bing showed 188 million. Those numbers were significantly smaller when The Register tried the same search about 10 hours after the blog item was published. The attacks highlight the intricate role search engines, Web sites, domain name registrars, and Web hosts play in enabling campaigns that have the potential to scam large numbers of people. Most of the compromised Web pages appeared to be hosted by legitimate Web sites with administrators who simply were not careful enough. “We don’t comment on individual sites, but there is nothing particularly new going on here as far as I can tell,” a Google spokesman wrote in an email to The Register. “I think it’s important to keep in mind that search engines are a reflection of the content and information that is available on the Internet.” Representatives of Yahoo did not respond to emails seeking comment. Source: [http://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/10/01/mass\\_compromise\\_google\\_results/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/10/01/mass_compromise_google_results/)

42. *September 30, California Democrat* – (Missouri) **KRLL radio takes lightning hit.** Lightning took California, Missouri radio station KRLL 1420 AM off the air when the station’s tower was struck on Friday evening, September 26. The lightning hit took out the station’s transmitter as well as causing other damage to devices on the tower. According to the KRLL owner, the transmitter sustained a large amount of damage. New equipment must be procured and installed on the tower. The warning light on the tower was also shattered, and the pieces are scattered over a wide area.

Source:

<http://www.californiademocrat.com/articles/2009/09/30/news/092cal19krll09.txt>

43. *September 29, Periscope IT* – (International) **Gmail outage caused by heavy usage.** Google’s Internet outage was caused by increased traffic levels that resulted from a change to the system code. The company was also hit by higher than normal traffic for its contacts service and suffered other data center issues. Highlighted in a report published by Google, the findings followed a thorough investigation and review. “The engineering team has determined that the root cause of the contacts issue was a high load on the service,” the report said. Affecting the company’s Google Apps and Google Talk accounts, some users were left without email services for almost 24 hours, however the majority of users did not experience problems for this long. Google also suffered a hit on its world-wide news aggregation service, Google News. When questioned by Computer World, a spokesperson for the firm did not make clear what had caused the outage.

Source: <http://www.periscopeit.co.uk/website-monitoring-news/article/gmail-outage-caused-by-heavy-usage/512>

## **Commercial Facilities Sector**

44. *October 2, Associated Press* – (California) **Arrest in suspected SoCal environmental extremism.** Three years after the discovery of a failed incendiary device at a suburban Pasadena real estate construction site, Federal Bureau Investigation (FBI) agents have used DNA analysis to arrest a man in Texas in a case they believe may involve environmental extremism. The suspect, a former California resident, was arrested Wednesday at his residence in Arlington, Texas with the help of University of Texas and city police, the FBI said. He appeared in federal court in Dallas on Thursday and is expected to be transferred to Los Angeles in the near future, said an FBI spokeswoman. A complaint filed the week of September 21 charges him with the attempted arson of unfinished townhouses on September 19, 2006. Firefighters were called there after the discovery of a crude incendiary device that had failed to ignite. The next day, arriving construction workers found they could not start a tractor on which someone had scrawled the phrase, “Another tractor decommissioned by the E.L.F.,” the complaint said. The FBI said Pasadena detectives recognized the initials as referring to the Earth Liberation Front and determined that someone had tampered with the vehicle’s ignition system. DNA extracted from cigarettes that were used in the incendiary device recently produced a match with the suspect’s DNA profile on record with the California Department of Justice, the FBI said.

Source: <http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/APStories/stories/D9B2L7PO4.html>

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## **National Monuments and Icons Sector**

Nothing to report

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## **Dams Sector**

45. *October 2, Seattle-Tacoma News Tribune* – (Washington) **Emergency deal puts security guards back at dams.** Armed security guards were back on the job Thursday at six Columbia River system dams in Washington managed by the Army Corps of Engineers. A Federal Way security company, Doyon Logistics Services, has been given a three-month, \$190,405 contract to take over security guard services at McNary, Ice Harbor, Lower Monumental, Little Goose, Lower Granite, and Dworshak dams. Security at those dams had lapsed since the first week of September when the government canceled its contract with Seattle-based HWA Inc. because it had defaulted on the contract. A spokeswoman for the Corps Walla Walla District office, said Doyon’s short-term emergency replacement contract runs through December, when the original contract with HWA was scheduled to end. She said the Corps will call for competitive bids on a new security guard contract to take effect then. Restoring security services means visitor center access and private vehicle crossings of dams, where possible, were reinstated — except at Ice Harbor Dam where limited Corps staff



requires early closure of the visitor center. It normally closes October 31 for the winter months. She said the powerhouse viewing room at McNary Dam also has been reopened. Most of the guards previously employed by HWA have been rehired by Doyon. The Corps terminated HWA's contract September 3 for failure to meet contract terms.

Source: <http://www.thenewstribune.com/news/northwest/story/901697.html>

46. *October 1, WMAZ 13 Macon* – (Georgia) **Macon's levee problems persist, Army says.** Despite recent repairs and inspections, the Army Corps of Engineers says Macon, Georgia's levee still has some safety problems. In an inspection report released Thursday, they said the levee is just "marginally acceptable." That is their middle grade, between "acceptable" and unacceptable." Based on a June inspection, they found several areas that were "unacceptable": They found areas where the Ocmulgee River had seeped through the levee. They also found an abandoned sewer line that ran under the levee near the city landfill that could be unstable. Among several "marginally acceptable" areas, the Corps still found vegetation growing along the base of the levee's retaining wall. In previous inspections, the Army had asked the city to remove trees, bushes and other vegetation whose roots could weaken the levee. They also found erosion along the river bank that could eventually threaten the levee's stability. The Great Flood of 1994 was caused when the Ocmulgee River breached the levee and swamped Macon's downtown. The city's levee has been in the news again in the past two weeks when a Macon Water Authority sewer pipe near Central City Park broke and caused a sinkhole next to the river. The authority said that hole could have led to more serious damage that undermined the levee.

Source: <http://www.13wmaz.com/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=69777&catid=153>

47. *October 1, Fresno Bee* – (California) **Friant Dam releases water to begin river rebirth.** Several piercing blasts from an air horn Wednesday evening heralded the historic release of water from Millerton Lake for the eventual restoration of the San Joaquin River in California. The horn offered a five-minute warning to anyone downstream before a pair of 18-inch valves at the base of Friant Dam were opened at 5:54 p.m., sending jets of water roaring into the river at the rate of 185 cubic feet or about 1,400 gallons per second. The federal Bureau of Reclamation is releasing the water as part of a settlement that Valley irrigation districts, environmentalists, and the federal government approved three years ago. The goal: to restore an uninterrupted, year-round flow of water to parts of the river that have been mostly dry since Friant Dam was completed in 1944, so that salmon can return. The water rushing through the valves is in addition to water already flowing through the Friant Dam powerhouse turbines, bringing total releases to 350 cubic feet per second. That is what's required under the terms of the 2006 legal settlement intended to restore a salmon run to the San Joaquin. Earlier Wednesday, farmers and others unhappy with the river restoration staged a protest at Friant Cove, about two-thirds of a mile downstream from the dam. Calling themselves Families Protecting the Valley, the group fears the restoration efforts will eventually dry up their allocations of water from Millerton Lake and force them to pump more water from an already stressed underground water table.

Source: <http://www.fresnobee.com/local/story/1658780.html>

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